



Appendix L  
Complex Creek Care

**PUGET SOUND ACTION TEAM**  
**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND EDUCATION FUND PROPOSAL**  
**"COMPLEX CREEK CARE: MULTI-FAMILY COMMUNITIES**  
**WORKING TO IMPROVE JUANITA CREEK"**

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*Submitted by:* City of Kirkland, Public Works Department

*Address:* 123 5th Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033

*Area Served by Project:* Juanita Creek

*Water bodies benefiting from project:* Juanita Creek, Lake Washington, Puget Sound

*Water Resource Inventory Area:* WRIA 8

*This project addresses the following priorities:*

1. Educates multi-family residents, apartment managers, and condominium associations located adjacent to Juanita Creek about the unique and important functions of the creek and its riparian buffer and how to care for it.
2. Reduces harmful impacts to Juanita Creek and downstream receiving waters from traditional landscape practices (i.e., expansive lawns, use of chemicals) by engaging residents and owners of multi-family residences in caring for their stream buffer with alternative techniques.

*Exact funding amount requested:* \$29,550

*Matching/in-kind funds?* Yes

*Estimated amount:* \$8,720

*Contact person:* Scott Gonsar, 425-576-2905,  
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*Previous PIE Fund contractor?* No

*Previous PIE funded project?* No

## ABSTRACT

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*Complex Creek Care* promotes the protection of Juanita Creek, Lake Washington and Puget Sound by educating multi-family residents about the importance of riparian vegetation and how stream-side landscaping practices can be changed to improve habitat conditions. In its lower 2 miles, there are over 100 apartment and condominium buildings (approximately 700 units) bordering Juanita Creek. Habitat conditions in the creek have declined as the basin has become more urbanized and much of the decline is attributed to poor riparian buffer conditions dominated by lawn, landscaping, and invasive species, and increased stormwater runoff. **“Complex Creek Care: Multi-family Communities Working to Improve Juanita Creek”** will educate multi-family residents living next to Juanita Creek about the unique area in which they live, and will motivate and help residents to improve the creek’s riparian functions. The first part of this project is to raise awareness and appreciation of Juanita Creek by conducting targeted outreach to apartment and condominium dwellers, and building managers. The second part of the project is to hold two 1/2-day workshops where participants will learn alternative green landscaping techniques and how properly functioning riparian vegetation improves water quality and stream habitat conditions. The last part of the project is to organize and facilitate work parties at individual apartment and condominium complexes where project participants can apply the techniques they’ve learned. Anticipated results of this project include increased (1) awareness of stream and riparian functions by multi-family residents and managers, (2) knowledge of alternative green landscaping techniques by project participants, (3) number of apartment complexes using green landscaping techniques. It is also anticipated that stream habitat conditions in Juanita Creek will improve, at least locally, where new landscaping and riparian buffer management practices are implemented.

## PROJECT DESIGN

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### ISSUE

Juanita Creek is a highly valued salmonid-bearing stream that flows into Lake Washington and Puget Sound. Habitat conditions for salmonids and other aquatic species have declined over the years as a result of watershed urbanization. According to recent habitat surveys conducted in Juanita Creek, much of the habitat decline can be attributed to lack of or poor-quality riparian buffers dominated by lawns, landscaping, and invasive species. The primary landuse on the lower 2 miles of Juanita Creek is multi-family residential, and most of these apartment and condominium buildings have traditional landscaping practices: expansive lawns and ornamental plants. The heavy use of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers; lack of native riparian understory and overstory; and increased stormwater runoff all contribute to degraded stream, lake, and Sound conditions and impact the species that live there. There is a significant opportunity to improve riparian conditions in the lower 2 miles of Juanita Creek by educating and motivating residents and managers of multi-family complexes to change their attitudes and behavior regarding landscaping practices.

### OBJECTIVES

- Knowledge Change: Multi-family residents, and building managers will increase their awareness about stream and riparian functions of Juanita Creek and how alternative landscaping techniques and management of riparian areas can improve stream habitat conditions.
- Attitude Change: Building managers and/or homeowners associations will start requesting green landscaping techniques from their landscaping contractors.
- Skill Change: Eighty percent of workshop participants will learn a new alternative landscaping technique.
- Aspiration Change: Multi-family residents and managers will be motivated to initiate alternative riparian management and landscaping techniques at their complexes. Participants from at least two multi-family complexes will show interest in having work parties at their complexes.
- Behavior Change: Two multi-family complexes will initiate alternative landscaping techniques.

### TARGET AUDIENCE

The target audience includes residents and managers of approximately 700 apartment and condominium units located adjacent to Juanita Creek. The workshops and information distributed will be geared toward adults and older children.

### ACTIVITIES

#### INITIAL OUTREACH

The initial outreach to multi-family residents and building managers will occur in the following ways:

(1) An informational brochure will be developed for distribution to approximately 700 multi-family households bordering Juanita Creek. The brochure will describe Juanita Creek, its physical relationship to streamside owners, and how human behaviors can impact the ecological functions and water quality of the stream. Examples of positive streamside improvements will be given, and the upcoming workshops will be advertised. It's important to educate and get support from multi-family residents, even if they don't make landscaping decisions at their complexes. Informed and motivated residents can be an effective tool to get homeowners associations and/or building managers to make positive changes in the way landscaping or management of riparian areas is handled.

(2) Because many of the decisions regarding landscaping and maintenance activities are made by apartment managers and condominium associations, these individuals or groups will be contacted personally by City of Kirkland staff to describe the workshops and benefits of choosing alternative landscaping techniques at their complexes. A 15-minute presentation will be developed by a public involvement consulting firm, for apartment and condominium associations to convey the information to larger groups. It's anticipated that the presentation will be given to five apartment and condominium associations to get support for alternative landscaping at their buildings and to promote the workshops.

## WORKSHOPS

A 1/2-day participatory workshop will be held twice during a one-month period in the fall 2004 to demonstrate alternative landscaping methods that can increase riparian buffer function and decrease impacts from urbanization. The workshops will be held at a demonstration site located at a partnering apartment complex, Juanita Creek Apartments. The owner of Juanita Creek Apartments has already taken significant steps to restore the Juanita Creek riparian area on his property. This complex will serve as a great example to residents and owners of other multi-family complexes of what is possible.

The workshop format will include concurrent demonstration areas for different topics, roving experts to answer specific questions, a kiosk with informational handouts, and a work area where participants can actively use the techniques presented.

Specific topics to be demonstrated will include (1) soil amendment techniques, (2) use and care of native plants, (3) alternatives to pesticides and herbicides, (4) removing and controlling invasive plants, and (5) how to choose a green professional landscaper. An emphasis will be placed on the ecological benefits of alternative landscaping practices in riparian areas, and economic benefits that could come from decreased use of water and chemicals, and decreased maintenance. Workshop presenters will include volunteer experts, City of Kirkland staff, environmental consultants, and professional landscapers that use alternative green landscaping practices. Participants will have the opportunity for hands-on application of the techniques learned in a small work area at the demonstration site.

## WORK PARTIES

Work parties will be organized and facilitated for multi-family residents and managers interested in incorporating alternative landscaping techniques at their complex. The work parties will focus on the individual complexes' needs and desires, but may include (1) removal of invasive plants and revegetation with native plants, (2) amending soil in planted areas to improve water retention and plant health, or (3) planning large-scale landscape renovation to focus on alternative greener practices. It is anticipated that at least two work parties will be organized and facilitated.

The workshop and work parties are an effective means of educating the public by getting people involved in the actual work. Workshop participants will be able to visualize possibilities for their own complexes by seeing the riparian improvements that have been implemented by Juanita Creek Apartments at the demonstration area. Participants will also be introduced to alternative landscaping methods and will have the chance to talk with professional landscapers that apply these techniques. By actively planting native plants and removing invasive species, residents will become familiar with the plants and will be able to recognize them in other riparian areas. Being able to identify plants brings people more in touch with the natural environment around them and will help to promote environmental stewardship.

Information developed for the project, including informational brochures, workshop handouts, and references for those who want more information, will be posted on the City of Kirkland website. A news release about the project will be issued to local media.

## DELIVERABLES

1. Evaluation plan
2. Complex Creek Care Informational Brochure and 15-minute Presentation

3. Complex Creek Care: Multi-family Communities Working to Improve Juanita Creek Workshop (Two 1/2 day events)
4. Work Parties at individual multi-family complexes (Anticipate two work parties)
5. Quarterly reports and final report

## EVALUATION

During the initial outreach to apartment building managers and homeowners associations, a survey will be given to determine how their landscaping needs are currently being met, which landscaping contractors they're using, and what kind of outdoor landscape, particularly in the riparian area, they currently have. A follow-up survey will be conducted at the completion of the project to determine if there are any changes in attitudes or behaviors regarding green landscaping practices.

A brief evaluation form will be given to workshop participants at the beginning and end of the workshop to determine the effectiveness of the information presented and to identify what skills participants acquired through their participation. The number of interested residents and managers wanting to conduct work parties at their locations will also be used to evaluate whether the workshop or initial outreach effort was successful in increasing appreciation and motivating individuals to incorporate alternative landscaping techniques to improve riparian conditions in Juanita Creek.

## PROJECT PERSONNEL

### SPONSORING ORGANIZATION

The City of Kirkland Storm and Surface Water Utility of the Public Works Department is proudly sponsoring this project. The project fits clearly with the mission of the utility, which is to maintain and improve the quality of streams, lakes, and constructed drainage facilities in the City of Kirkland.

### RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUALS

**Project Lead:** Scott Gonsar, Surface Water Systems Engineer, City of Kirkland

**Co-project Lead:** Jenny Gaus, P.E., Senior Surface Water Engineer, City of Kirkland

**Complex Creek Care Intern:** To be determined, City of Kirkland

## PROJECT PARTNERS

Several apartment complexes and neighborhood associations have expressed an interest in this project and at the time of this submittal, three have committed to participating: **Juanita Creek Apartments** will host the demonstration site and workshops, and the **South Juanita Neighborhood** and **Spring Brook Home Owners Associations** will assist in providing outreach to multi-family residents in the area. **King County Department of Natural Resources, Natural Yard Care Program** will provide technical assistance with brochure development. Additionally, we hope to partner with a professional landscaper who uses alternative green landscaping practices.

## BUDGET AND COST JUSTIFICATION

### BUDGET

Budget Category	PIE Request	In Kind	Total
<b>Personnel</b>			
Project Lead: 300 hrs @ \$35/hr	10,500		10,500
Co-Project Lead: 200 @ \$35/hr	7,000		7,000
Project Intern: 350 @ \$11/hr	3,850		3,850
Volunteer outreach: 40 hrs @ \$15/hr		600	600
Volunteer workshop speakers and roving experts: 96 hrs @ \$20/hr		1,920	1,920
Workshop Speakers Consulting Fee (20 hrs @ \$100/hr)	2,000		2,000
Public Involvement Consulting Fee (30 hrs. @ \$100/hr)	3,000		3,000
<b>Office</b>	2,000		2,000
<b>Materials</b>		6,200	6,200
<b>Indirect Costs</b>	1,200		1,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,550</b>	<b>8,720</b>	<b>38,270</b>

### COST JUSTIFICATION

In-kind donations for this project include (1) workshop and work party materials (plants, compost, tools) from the City of Kirkland, (2) outreach assistance from South Juanita Neighborhood and Spring Brook Homeowners Associations, and (3) volunteer time from workshop speakers and roving experts. Additionally, demonstration area and workshop space are donated by Juanita Creek Apartments, but those costs are not included in the above budget estimate.

### DELIVERABLES COST ANALYSIS

1. Evaluation Plan - \$440
2. Complex Creek Care Informational Brochure and 15-minute Presentation - \$7,080
3. Complex Creek Care: Multi-family Communities Working to Improve Juanita Creek Workshop (two 1/2 day events) - \$18,120
4. Work Parties at individual multi-family complexes (two work parties) - \$11,580
5. Quarterly reports and final report -\$1,050

## APPENDIX A.

### PROJECT PERSONNEL DESCRIPTION/QUALIFICATIONS

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#### **Project Lead: Scott D. Gonsar, City of Kirkland Public Works Department, Surface Water Division**

As a Surface Water Systems Engineer, Mr. Gonsar is responsible for the development and management of both local and multi-jurisdictional public education programs including workshops, field events, and publications. Mr. Gonsar has organized and facilitated streamside plantings with local schools, written several brochures and informational sheets, organized and managed the City of Kirkland Salmon Watcher program and managed the City's "Grate" Mate program where volunteers install catch basin filters.

#### **Co-Project Lead: Jenny Gaus, P.E., City of Kirkland Public Works Department, Surface Water Division**

Ms. Gaus is a Senior Surface Water Engineer responsible for development and management of engineering and outreach programs for the utility. Ms. Gaus has 10 years experience in managing surface water programs for local governments including WRIA 8 salmon recovery planning, water quality and biological monitoring, pollution prevention education, and management of planting and stream restoration projects within the City limits. Recent work in restoring stream channels through private property has provided insight into ways to balance habitat and water quality concerns with the needs of streamside property owners.

#### **Complex Creek Care Intern: To be determined, City of Kirkland Public Works Department, Surface Water Division**

This position will be filled by a undergraduate or graduate student studying public policy, environmental science, engineering, biology or a related field. The intern will be responsible for conducting public outreach tasks, assisting in workshop development and preparation, and participation in the workshops and work parties. The intern may also work on the evaluation plan and project updates.